

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Defining Sexual Assault: Sexual assault is *conduct of a sexual nature* which is *non-consensual*, and is accomplished through threat, coercion, exploitation, deceit, force, physical or mental incapacitation, and/or power of authority.

Conduct of a Sexual Nature: Sexual assault includes a wide range of sexual behaviors and sexual activity. Some examples include rape, forcible sodomy, incest, child sexual abuse, unwanted sexual contact or touching, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution and sex trafficking, and sexual harassment.

Non-consensual: Sexual assault occurs when someone experiences sexual activity that she or he *did not consent to or did not want*. Consent cannot be given if a person is underage, drunk, high, unconscious, or physically or mentally incapacitated. A person can change her or his mind about sexual activity at any time and withdraw consent.

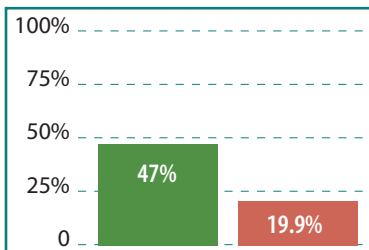
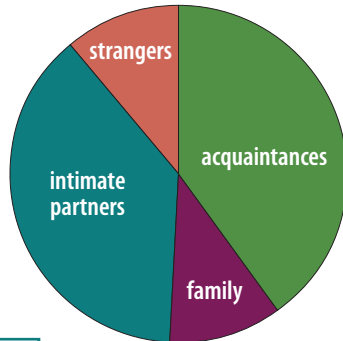


The Realities of Sexual Assault NATIONAL STATISTICS



Nearly **1 in 3 women** and nearly **1 in 6 men** were victims of contact sexual violence during their lifetimes.

Among female rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (47.1%), acquaintances (44.9%), family members (12.6%), and strangers (12.8%).



Among male rape victims, perpetrators were primarily reported to be acquaintances (47%) and strangers (19.9%).

Nearly 23 million women and 1.7 million men have been the victims of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime.

41% of female victims and 24% of male victims reported being younger than 18 when the first incident of sexual violence occurred.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please contact the **Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-838-8238 (24-hours/day, toll-free)**

For additional sexual assault-related information and resources, please visit the **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance website at www.vsdvalliance.org**

You may also contact the toll-free **Victim Assist Virginia Helpline at 1-855-443-5782**

All statistics from Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010–2012 State Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2017.



April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Realities of Sexual Assault VIRGINIA STATISTICS

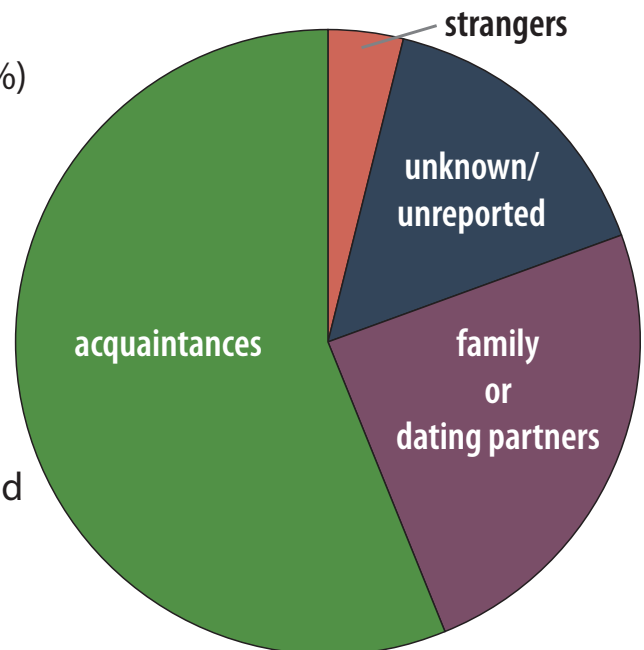


The total number of
VIOLENT CRIMES reported
in 2018 includes
5,598 forcible sex offenses
involving **5,835 victims**.¹



Forcible sex offenses reported include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. Of the reported victims of forcible rape, the vast majority (98%) were female.²

The majority of forcible sex offenses (74%) were committed by perpetrators known by or acquainted with the victim, including a substantial percentage of offenses committed by family or household members or dating partners (32%). Of the remaining offenses reported, 20.7% were committed by unknown/unreported assailants, and 4.8% were committed by strangers.³



Over half (55.4%) of reported female victims, over three-quarters of male victims (76.9%) were under the age of eighteen.²

32% of the reported forcible sex offenses involved offenses committed against family members or intimate partners.³

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¹Virginia State Police, *Crime in Virginia, 2018 (2019)*.

²Virginia State Police, *Crime in Virginia, 2018 (2019)*.

² *Id.* The number for victims under the age of 18 reflects victims in the 0-17 age range, as well as victims of unknown age.

³Virginia State Police, *Crime in Virginia, 2018 (2019)*.

³ *Id.*